

Application No. 10/797,686
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the abrasive plate has a width that is larger than an outside width of the links and a length that is longer than one pitch of the links, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 21-25. See also Figs. 2 and 3.

In addition, independent claim 8 has been amended to recite the features of the track frame, sprocket, idler, track roller and carrier roller of the crawler structure of the present invention, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 7, line 26 to page 8, line 11. See also Figs. 1 and 2.

Still further, claims 1-6 and 8-17 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to more clearly and positively recite the features of the present invention in better U.S. form.

Yet still further, new claims 18-20 have been added to recite additional structural features of the abrasive plate depending from claim 1, as supported by the disclosure in the

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specification at, for example, page 8, line 12 to page 9, line 20. See also Figs. 2-4.

And finally, new claims 21, 22 and 24 have been added based on the subject matter of new claims 18-20 depending from amended independent claim 8, and new claim 23 has been added based on the subject matter of amended independent claim 1 depending from amended independent claim 8.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

RE: THE ELECTED SPECIES

Amended claims 1, 2, 5, 8-11 and 16 remain readable on the elected Species of Figs. 1-4, and new claims 18-24 are all readable on the elected Species of Figs. 1-4.

And it is respectfully requested that upon allowance of any elected claim, any non-elected claims depending therefrom should also be considered on the merits and allowed.

RE: CLAIM FEE

The application previously included 17 claims of which 2 were independent. The application now contains 23 claims, of which 2 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$150 for the addition of 3 extra claims in total is attached

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hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

RE: THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 1,660,100 ("Smyth"), and claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Smyth and USP 6,758,145 ("Hefter"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a crawler belt link grinding system is provided which comprises an abrasive plate positioned so as to contact a wound crawler belt to grind treads of links of the crawler belt. The abrasive plate has a width that is larger than an outside width of the links and a length that is longer than one pitch of the links.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 8, a crawler structure is provided which comprises: a track frame; a sprocket disposed at one side of the track frame; an idler disposed at another side of the track frame; a track roller disposed under the track frame; a carrier roller disposed on the track frame; an endless crawler

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belt wound between the sprocket and the idler, wherein the crawler belt includes crawler belt links, which have respective treads that are in rolling contact with the track roller, the carrier roller and the idler during travel; and a crawler belt link grinding system for grinding the respective treads of the crawler belt links of the crawler belt.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8, it is possible to lubriciously grind the treads of the links of the crawler belt so as to maintain a smooth surface on the treads.

The Examiner contends that element J of Smyth corresponds to the grinding system recited in claims 1 and 8. And the Examiner has cited Hefter for the disclosure of an abrasive plate, which the Examiner acknowledges is not disclosed by Smyth.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that element J of Smyth does not contact the track-chain G. Instead, according to the teachings of Smyth, element J is an adjustable support for the leaf spring I¹, which is supported on the T-head of the tension bar J. See Fig. 1 and page 2, lines 8-24 of Smyth. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that even the leaf spring I¹ of Smyth does not contact a tread surface of the links of track-chain G. Instead, Fig. 3 of Smyth clearly shows that leaf spring I¹ contacts only roller L, which is journaled on pin g³

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extending between rail-heads g^2-g^2 of the tread-shoe g. Thus, neither tension bar J nor spring I¹ of Smyth touches a tread surface of a tread-shoe g. Similarly, on the ground (lower) side of Fig. 1 of Smyth, the leaf spring I also does not contact the tread surface of the track-chain G, as shown in Fig. 2 of Smyth.

Therefore, neither tension bar J of Smyth nor spring I¹ supported thereon grinds a tread in the manner of the claimed present invention.

Heftter, moreover, merely relates to cleaning the tracks of a model railroad, and is clearly not related to grinding the treads of the links of a crawler belt, as according to the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Smyth and Heftter clearly do not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8, whereby it is possible to lubriciously grind the treads of the links of the crawler belt so as to maintain a smooth, uncorrugated, surface on the treads.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8, as well as each of claims 2-6 and 9-24 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Smyth and Heftter, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 and under 35 USC 103.

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RE: THE IDS OF MARCH 9, 2004

Submitted herewith is an English language translation of Japanese Utility Model Abstract H01-125286, which was submitted in an IDS filed on March 9, 2004, and a new form PTO/SB/08A listing JP H01-125286 thereon. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider JP H01-125286 and make it of record in the present application, and it is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that JP H01-125286 has been considered and made of record.

RE: CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed with the original application papers on March 9, 2004, and which are available in the Image File Wrapper of the present application, as indicated in the attached listing of the contents thereof.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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